

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

[72] Messages from a physical layer of each communication band and communication channel associated with each protocol utilized in a multi-band, multi-protocol network may be aggregated into a single multi-protocol layer called, for example, a super channel layer. An optimal communication path may be identified from among the communication bands and/or communication channels based on information borne by the single multi-protocol layer. A communication session may be established via optimal communication path. The communication path may include different channels within a single communication bands, and/or channels selected from different communication bands. In this regard, channels from the same or different communication bands may be combined to provide an optimal communication path. The single multi-protocol layer may be characterized as a sublayer located within the data link layer. Accordingly, the single multi-protocol layer may be located above a MAC layer, both of which are part of the data link layer.